Network of LPG outlets in Rural Areas

2407. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to spread the network of LPG distribution outlets in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what shall be the criteria for allotting LPG distributorship in the rural areas; and

(d) by when Government proposes to start this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d): As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including in rural areas:

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

Accordingly, in the Marketing Plan 1996—98, 540 LPG distributorships are earmarked for rural areas.

Locations included in the marketing Plans are advertised by the oil marketing companies from time to time. Selection is made through the Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes about 6—12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Calculation of Cost Per Cylinder

2408. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much cost per cylinder is calculated by the Oil Corporation item-wise for Draft charges, Rent of showroom, godown, salaries, telephone,